

# Counter Nuclear Smuggling Teams

Investigate Smuggling Networks • Secure Trafficked Material • Prosecute Smugglers

*Recent nuclear smuggling seizures suggest additional nuclear material remains available on the black market and must be located and secured. Therefore in addition to locking down material under government control, the United States encourages foreign partners to strengthen capabilities to investigate smuggling networks, remove trafficked material from the black market and arrest individuals involved. Specifically, the U.S. promotes establishment of Counter Nuclear Smuggling (CNS) teams that focus on information collection and analysis, law enforcement, and technical reach-back capabilities that have proven successful in detecting past nuclear smuggling networks and arresting criminals involved in most known cases.*

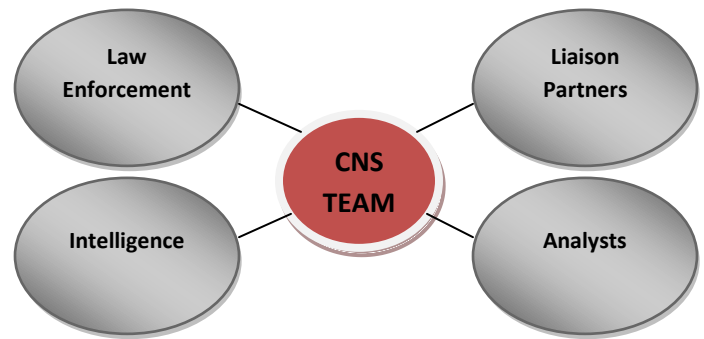
## The Nuclear Smuggling Threat

Seizures of weapon-grade nuclear materials in Moldova and Georgia suggest such materials remain in illegal circulation and could be used to kill tens or hundreds of thousands of people. To ensure terrorists never gain access to these materials, governments must lock-down nuclear materials and work together to investigate nuclear trafficking activities, remove materials from the black market, and prosecute those smuggling or seeking to acquire nuclear material. At the 2012 Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul, South Korea, 19 countries signed a Statement to Counter Nuclear Smuggling, and others announced steps to strengthen CNS capacities.

## Counter Nuclear Smuggling Teams

To counter this threat it is critical to bolster operational counter nuclear smuggling (CNS) capacities. Joint activities by law enforcement, intelligence analysts and technical experts enhance global competencies to locate and secure black market materials and arrest those illegally possessing them. This specialized team can enhance the capacity to detect and respond to smuggling activities taking place within a country's borders and compliments fixed radiation detection equipment along a country's perimeter. An effective national CNS team incorporates:

- **Information collectors** to gather data from various sources on the nuclear smuggling threat.
- **Intelligence analysts** to review this information, look for connections between cases and individuals involved, and inform decision-makers.
- **Law Enforcement officers** with arrest authority to investigate nuclear and radioactive materials smugglers, arrest those involved, and work with national legal authorities to ensure prosecution.
- **Liaison officers** to coordinate technical reach-back with the scientific community and provide information to the international community and others as appropriate.



## U.S. Activities to Advance Global CNS Operations

The United States actively works with international partners and INTERPOL to advance counter nuclear smuggling capacity worldwide.

Since 2011, the U.S. has worked with the governments of Lithuania, Slovakia, Ukraine, and others, to establish national CNS teams. Through the State Department's Nuclear Smuggling Outreach Initiative (NSOI), the United States partners with key countries around the world to strengthen capabilities to prevent, detect, and respond to incidents of nuclear smuggling. NSOI develops Joint Action Plans with partner governments that include CNS teams as a key element.

Through the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. supports INTERPOL's Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism Prevention Unit (RNU) which provides operational and analytical resources to global law enforcement services. This unit also provides training and workshops that build counter nuclear smuggling capability to investigate nuclear smuggling networks and locate and secure black market nuclear materials.